

enemy automatic weapons fire. Seeking cover behind a small hedge, SPC Simpson returned fire against the enemy.

Over the next hour of intense fighting, SPC Simpson established radio communication with Captain Conlon, Alpha Company Commander, requesting support from helicopter gunships and artillery. Despite continued intense enemy fire, and at great risk to himself, SPC Simpson maneuvered to a position allowing him a better view of the enemy. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, SPC Simpson established direct contact with the Air Force Pilot on station, directing an air strike on the enemy. When the first two air strikes did not fully eliminate the opposing forces, SPC Simpson directed the strike that was dangerously close to himself and his own troops, resulting in elimination of the enemy. During the entire combat event, SPC Simpson maintained communication with higher command, calling additional air support.

The engagement resulted in 4 personnel killed in action and 8 wounded in action. His courageous initiative and exemplary professionalism significantly contributed to the successful outcome of the engagement and directly led to the saving of his fellow soldiers' lives. Specialist 4 Simpson's unquestionable valor while engaged in military operation involving conflict with insurgent force is in keeping with the finest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

Five years ago, Don discussed his service and this incident with his doctor when getting a VA C&P Exam. The doctor, Mr. Ronnie Immel, contacted Don's squad leader Sgt. Carl Lawrence and his 1st Sgt. Ralph Cranitz. Both recommended Don for a Silver Star. My office was pleased to partner with them to ensure Don's service was properly recognized. Together, we worked to find the rest of Don's chain of command and submit the Silver Star Medal to the Department of the Army. After a few months, Don's Silver Star Medal was finally received and I was honored to present it to him.

Among the many awards he has received for his honorable service are the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Don Simpson. He is indeed a hero whose actions embody the true meaning of valor. I am very proud to have met him. His years of committed service to our nation are an example of excellence and dedication that all should seek to emulate.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JARROD DAUGHERTY AND HIS MEMORY AS A DEDICATED STUDENT AND LOVING SON

##### HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Jarrod Daugherty, a young constituent who unexpectedly passed away in an accident on May 8, 2017. His charisma, energy, and

talent will be enormously missed. I had the pleasure of meeting Jarrod when he visited my office in Washington, D.C. earlier this year as part of St. Theresa Catholic School's tour. I will never forget our conversation.

Jarrold was a bright and talented student from my Congressional District. He was born on June 29, 2003, in Indio, CA and spent his childhood in Palm Springs and Cathedral City. He attended Cielo Vista Charter High School and St. Theresa School where he was beloved by his peers and teachers.

Outside of school, Jarrod was involved in our local community. He was an active member of the Victory Christian Center and the Palm Springs Youth League Baseball Organization. He was passionate about sports, and his favorite teams were the LA Dodgers, Minnesota Vikings, Dallas Stars, and Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Jarrold enjoyed spending time with his family and his dogs. With a smile and a great sense of humor, he brought joy to those who knew him. He was a blessing to his parents, Jarrod and Cassandra, who often referred to him as Jr., Bub, Bubba, or Bubbas. Another one of his nicknames was Country, given his love for country music.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the memory of Jarrod Daugherty. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met such a charming young man and on behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.

#### HONORING TEXAS AGGIE WOMEN

##### HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2017*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas A&M University Women Former Students Network, known as "Aggie Women."

In the summer of 2007, a group of Aggie women started talking regularly and sharing ideas about ways to give back to Texas A&M University and contribute to its reputation as a world-class university. The original idea to form the Women Former Students' Network as a constituent network of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students came to fruition on December 21, 2007. At that time an interim board of directors was formed and the group branded themselves as Aggie Women. Fueled by the excitement of its formation, Aggie Women grew rapidly in its first year.

During its inaugural year of operations in 2008, in addition to recruiting nearly 200 charter members, Aggie Women established its first President's Endowed Scholarship through its "45 Women Campaign", which honored the 45 years of women's admittance to A&M. The year culminated in an inaugural meeting held November 14, 2008 on the campus of the University. Over 200 members and guests attended this historic day. Special guests included Former First Lady Barbara Bush, an honorary member of Aggie Women; members of the first graduating class of Aggie women; and many officials of Texas A&M University and The Association of Former Students. The first member-elected Board of Directors was seated in January 2009.

The mission of Aggie Women is to enhance excellence at Texas A&M University by pro-

moting the active engagement of women in the educational, charitable, and cultural life of the institution. The mission is fulfilled through increased engagement of Women Former Students in academic, research and service activities; through their expanded role as mentors of current women students, and future generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the University and The Association of Former Students. The Network strives to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity in the representation of its membership and in all its activities.

Aggie Women have raised over \$200,000 for President's Endowed Scholarships, three of which have been awarded, providing women students with needed academic funding.

Another Aggie Women initiative is the Eminent Scholar Award which is a joint project of Aggie Women and the President of Texas A&M University. It is designed to recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and service; and it honors the role these extraordinary women play in serving as models for all women students at the University. There have been three recipients of the Eminent Scholar Award and they received significant recognition on campus as well as a monetary stipend.

Over 400 students have been reached through Aggie Women's mentoring program. The program, known as "JumpStart," is a unique and engaging initiative in which Aggie Women partner with student organizations to provide tailored programs that are flexible in topics and length.

The "Aggie Women Legacy Awards" program has honored thirty women to date who have achieved excellence as an Aggie student or Former Student, and whose accomplishments have had an impact on future generations of Aggie Women worldwide. Aggie Women who have received this award often go on to achieve Outstanding Alumni recognition from the Association of Former Students and the University.

Over fifty Aggie Women have signed up for another sponsored program entitled "Aggie Experts." This endeavor engages Aggie Women in roles throughout the University by providing leadership and speaking opportunities for dynamic women to give back the University through their vast experience.

At an annual reception, Aggie Women honor those women achieving top student leadership positions, including the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and Student Government. Throughout each academic year, they also provide monthly programs for students on a variety of topics—chosen by the students themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Aggie Women are working tirelessly to continue the Aggie core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service. As an all-volunteer organization, Aggie Women continues to rely on the contributions of time, talent, and treasure of its board, its members and supporters. Together, they are building a legacy of strong women role models for all students—female and male—who come after them.

My wife, Gina, and I, as well as all of the Aggie Network, are proud to honor Aggie Women today. We thank them for their hard work and commitment to making Texas A&M University a better place for current, former, and future Texas Aggie students.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our nation's Capitol today to